AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. ***(Currently Amended)*** A device for processing filter tow material for the production of filters for rod-shaped smoking articles, said device comprising:

a filter tow supply configured to supply ~~delivery means for supplying~~ at least two filter tow strips**;**

at least two tow guideways, wherein each of the at least two filter tow strips is separately guided in a respective one of the at least two tow guideways; and

a separately controlled processing apparatus ~~apparatuses~~ assigned to each tow guideway for processing the respective filter tow strip ~~strips~~, wherein each ~~tow guideway is assigned a separately controlled~~ processing apparatus ~~comprising means for drawing a respective one of the at least two filter tow strips, wherein each means for drawing comprises~~ comprises:

[[a**]]** first and second drawing roller pairs, **[[**and**]]** wherein the first drawing roller pair in one of the at least two tow guideways is arranged coaxial and side-by-side in a single unit with the first drawing roller pair in the other of the at least two tow guideways to define first inner and outer drawing roller pairs, and wherein the second drawing roller pair in one of the at least two tow guideways is arranged coaxial and side-by-side in a single unit with the second drawing roller pair in the other of the at least two tow guideways to define second inner and outer drawing roller pairs, and wherein the first and second inner and outer drawing roller pairs are positioned and supported on only one side.

2. ***(Currently Amended)*** The device according to claim 1, wherein the filter tow ~~delivery means~~ supply comprises two side-by-side arranged filter tow bales to provide a different filter tow material to each tow guideway.

3. ***(Previously Presented)*** The device according to claim 1, wherein each processing apparatus further comprises means for flattening and means for treating the filter tow strip.

4. ***(Currently Amended)*** The device according to claim [[1]] 3, wherein each means for flattening is arranged side-by-side and transverse to [[the]] a direction of the tow guideways with each other respective means for flattening in a single unit, and wherein each means for treating is arranged side-by-side and transverse to the direction of the tow guideways with each other respective means for treating in a single unit.

5. ***(Currently Amended)*** The device according to claim 1, wherein each drawing roller pair is separately driven by an associated drive means.

6. ***(Canceled)***

7. ***(Currently Amended)*** ~~The device according to claim 1~~ A device for processing filter tow material for the production of filters for rod-shaped smoking articles, said device comprising:

filter tow delivery means for supplying at least two filter tow strips;

at least two tow guideways, wherein each of the at least two filter tow strips is separately guided in a respective one of the at least two tow guideways; and

processing apparatuses for processing the filter tow strips, wherein each tow guideway is assigned a separately controlled processing apparatus comprising means for drawing a respective one of the at least two filter tow strips, wherein each means for drawing comprises a roller pair, and wherein the roller pair in one of the at least two tow guideways is arranged coaxial and side-by-side in a single unit with the roller pair in the other of the at least two tow guideways to define inner and outer roller pairs, wherein a first roller of the outer roller pair is positioned on a first shaft and a first roller of the inner roller pair is positioned on a first tubular shaft through which the first shaft extends.

8. ***(Previously Presented)*** The device according to claim 7, wherein a second roller of the outer roller pair is positioned on a second shaft and a second roller of the inner roller pair is positioned on a second tubular shaft through which the second shaft extends.

9. ***(Previously Presented)*** A device for processing filter tow material for the production of filters for rod-shaped smoking articles, said device comprising:

filter tow delivery means for supplying at least two filter tow strips**;**

at least two tow guideways, wherein each of the at least two filter tow strips is separately guided in a respective one of the at least two tow guideways; and

processing apparatuses for processing the filter tow strips, wherein each tow guideway is assigned a separately controlled processing apparatus, wherein each processing apparatus comprises means for flattening, drawing, and/or treating a respective one of the at least two filter tow strips, wherein the means for treating comprises a spray box arrangement that extends across the tow guideways, wherein the spray box arrangement comprises discharge openings in a wall facing the tow guideways, which discharge openings are assigned to the tow guideways for dispensing treatment fluid onto the filter tow strips, and wherein a first separating wall is arranged within the spray box arrangement between the tow guideways and a second separating wall is arranged between the tow guideways on the wall facing the tow guideways.

10. ***(Previously Presented)*** The device according to claim 9, wherein the cross section for each discharge opening can be changed separately, relative to the tow guideways, with the aid of movable metering plates.

11. ***(Currently Amended)*** The device according to claim 9, wherein the spray box arrangement <u>is constructed to</u> **[[**can**]]** be operated under pressure.

12. ***(Previously Presented)*** The device according to claim 9, wherein the spray box arrangement comprises at least one rotating brush, operated by a drive, which dispenses the treatment fluid through the discharge openings.

13-15. ***(Canceled)***

16. ***(Currently Amended)*** ~~A device for processing filter tow material for the production of filters for rod-shaped smoking articles, said device comprising:~~

~~filter tow delivery means for supplying at least two filter tow strips;~~

~~at least two tow guideways, wherein each of the at least two filter tow strips is separately guided in a respective one of the at least two tow guideways;~~

~~processing apparatuses for processing the filter tow strips, wherein each tow guideway is assigned a separately controlled processing apparatus; and~~

The device according to claim 1, further comprising:

a separate removal device provided at an end of each tow guideway to separately transfer the filter tow strips, wherein each **[[**the**]]** removal device comprises a pusher drum or a transfer spider.

17. ***(Currently Amended)*** ~~A machine for producing rod-shaped smoking articles, comprising~~

~~filter tow delivery means for supplying at least two filter tow strips;~~

~~at least two tow guideways, wherein each of the at least two filter tow strips is separately guided in a respective one of the at least two tow guideways; and~~

~~processing apparatuses for processing the filter tow strips, wherein each tow guideway is assigned a separately controlled processing apparatus;~~

The device according to claim 1, further comprising:

an apparatus for wrapping a material around the filter tow strips; and

an adhesive applicator for gluing together the wrapping material, wherein the adhesive applicator comprises first means for applying slow-curing adhesive, and second means for applying fast-curing adhesive.

18. ***(Currently Amended)*** The device ~~machine for producing rod-shaped smoking articles~~ according to claim 17, wherein the slow-curing adhesive comprises cold glue, and wherein the fast-curing adhesive comprises hot-melt glue.

19. ***(Previously Presented)*** The device according to claim 1, wherein the rod-shaped smoking articles comprise cigarettes.

20. ***(Currently Amended)*** A device for processing filter tow material for the production of filters for rod-shaped smoking articles, said device comprising:

filter tow delivery means for supplying at least two filter tow strips**;**

at least two tow guideways, wherein each of the at least two filter tow strips is separately guided in a respective one of the at least two tow guideways;

processing apparatuses for processing the filter tow strips, wherein each tow guideway is assigned a separately controlled processing apparatus;

a shaping device for reshaping the filter tow strips into round filter tow rods; and

deflection means provided downstream of the shaping device for deflecting the round filter tow rods to reduce a center spacing between the round filter tow rods.

21. ***(Previously Presented)*** The device according to claim 20, wherein the deflection means comprises conical intake fingers which are bent twice to reduce the spacing between the filter tow rods, wherein each respective filter tow rod is guided through a respective one of the conical intake fingers.

22. ***(Previously Presented)*** The device according to claim 21, wherein the conical intake fingers are attached to a joint holder, suspended from a parallelogram frame, which can essentially be pivoted in the direction of the filter tow rods.

23. ***(Previously Presented)*** A device for processing filter tow material for the production of filters for rod-shaped smoking articles, said device comprising:

filter tow delivery means for supplying at least two filter tow strips**;**

at least two tow guideways, wherein each of the at least two filter tow strips is separately guided in a respective one of the at least two tow guideways; and

processing apparatuses for processing the filter tow strips, wherein each tow guideway is assigned a separately controlled processing apparatus comprising means for drawing a respective one of the at least two filter tow strips, wherein each means for drawing comprises:

a roller pair having a first and second rollers, the second roller having a larger diameter than the first roller; and

a control element adapted to adjust the second roller in a direction transverse to a rotational axis of the second roller in order to control a contact pressure of the second roller against the first roller.

24. ***(Previously Presented)*** The device according to claim 23, wherein each means for drawing further comprises:

a braking roller pair; and

an adjustment element adapted to adjust at least one roller of the braking roller pair in a direction transverse to a rotational axis of the at least one roller in order to control a contact pressure of the braking roller pair.

25. ***(New)*** The device according to claim 1, wherein the first and second inner and outer drawing roller pairs are supported on a vertical back wall of a machine frame.

26. ***(New)*** The device according to claim 3, wherein each means for flattening comprises first spreader nozzle and a second spreader nozzle constructed to flatten the respective filter tow strip, and wherein the means for treating comprises a spray box arrangement that extends across the tow guideways, the spray box including first and second adjacent, slot-shaped openings assigned, respectively, to the first and second tow guideways.